



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Thicket
National Preserve

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News Release

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For Immediate Release
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BIG THICKET NATIONAL PRESERVE ANNOUNCES OPENING OF PORTIONS OF THE PRESERVE FOR PUBLIC USE

Big Thicket National Preserve was significantly impacted by Hurricane Ike. Trees were downed throughout many areas. The Preserve has been working to meet employee needs as well as providing neighboring counties with mutual-aid assistance to open roads in the Preserve. Work has begun to clear roads, trails, and facilities in each of the 15 units. To provide the public with opportunities for a respite from the stress of Hurricane Ike, units will be opened on an individual basis. As of today, the following units are open to the public:

- Hickory Creek Savannah Unit
- Lance Rosier Unit
- Preserve Visitor Center (open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.)

All other units remain closed until further notice.

The public is advised to use caution on roads and in the Preserve as numerous hazards such as fallen timber, leaning trees, and debris may still exist. These hazardous conditions extend to traveling in the Preserve on foot. Leaning and hanging trees as well as unstable footing can be dangerous to persons walking in the woods. There is also an elevated risk of wildfires given the amount of downed trees and other flammable debris present in the woods.

The Preserve will issue updated information as the conditions of roads and trails change. Specific questions concerning the condition of roads and trails should be directed to (409) 951-6701. For updates on openings, please check the internet at nps.gov/bith.